

## REMARKS

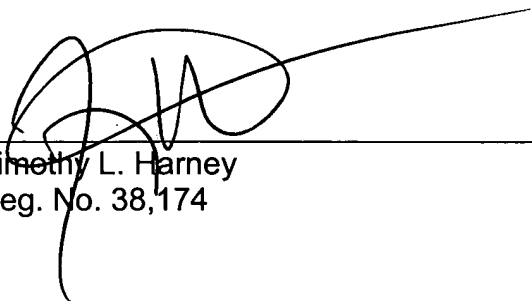
This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in connection with the above-identified continuation application. Please amend the continuation application in accordance with this Preliminary Amendment prior to any other actions on the merits.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 25-56 are similar in many respects to the allowed claims of the parent application, Serial No. 10/176,843. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the pending claims in the present case are allowable for at least the same reasons that the claims in the parent case were allowable. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any required fees not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: December 5, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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